Former McKeithen Aide Admits Arranging Talk

T-P 2/3/67

But Young Says He Did Not Know Purpose

Aubrey Young, a former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen, said in Baton Rouge Tuesday that he arranged a meeting there between Teamsters Union head Edward Grady Partin and a contractor who brought up the name of James R. Hoffa.

However, Young said he had no knowledge of the purpose of the meeting and did not sit through it.

Young, former security officer for McKeithen, said that when the man began discussing Hoffa with Partin, "I left the meeting."

"I am sure the FBI, with whom I have cooperated, knows all of the above is true," Young said.

ISSUES STATEMENT

He issued his statement after Life magazine published an article which said that Partin, whose testimony helped put national Teamster boss Hoffa behind bars, turned down a bribe of $1 million to recant or "taint" his testimony.

The magazine says that the $1 million attempted bribery of Partin was made through "friends of Hoffa" and the Cosa Nostra—the national crime syndicate.

Partin, leader of the Teamsters local in Baton Rouge, was a government witness against Hoffa at a 1964 trial in Chattanooga, Tenn., which led to conviction of Hoffa on a charge of conspiring to tamper with a federal jury.

Hoffa is serving an eight-year prison term.

The Life article says $2 million was made available to Cosa Nostra mobsters "to be made payable to anyone who could wreck the government's jury-tampering case on which Hoffa had been convicted."

Concerning the article, Young made this statement:

"I have never met Carlos Marcello: I have never had any dealings with him directly or indirectly of any kind in my

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 18, Col. 1

YOUNG ADMITS MEETING HELD

Continued from Page 1

entire life. I have never had and do not now have any connections directly or indirectly with any persons in the underworld or alleged to be in the underworld.

"At the request of Mr. Dalton Smith, known to me as a contractor, I arranged a meeting with him and Mr. Ed Partin in Baton Rouge. I had no knowledge of Mr. Smith's reason for wanting to meet Mr. Partin. When Mr. Smith started to discuss Mr. Hoffa with Mr. Partin, I left the meeting.

"I am sure the FBI, with whom I have cooperated, knows all of the above to be true. I am satisfied that the Department of Justice was familiar with episode mentioned above long before the story was published in Life magazine. I have offered to testify under oath before any grand jury that all the above is true and have offered the Department of Justice my complete cooperation."

CANNOT BE REACHED

Life identified Smith as "a sometime public relations specialist and all around operator." He could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

A. D. Smith of New Orleans, a brother of Dalton Smith, also could not be reached for comment, but Mrs. A. D. Smith said that she knows only that

her brother-in-law is now living in California.

A sister of Dalton Smith, Mrs. Frances Pecora, who is employed by the state insurance commission, said she was attempting to contact her brother in California.

Mrs. Pecora said that if she is able to contact her brother she will attempt to put him in touch with The Times-Picayune.

Young said the meeting between Smith and Partin took place at his home (Young's) on the State Police headquarters grounds in Baton Rouge.

Young also said he told McKeithen about the January meeting after he left the governor's employ, which contradicts the Life report which said Young resigned after McKeithen learned of the meeting arrangement.

Though McKeithen would not be questioned about the story, he released a prepared statement which said Young's actions "became such that, upon learning of same, I felt he could no longer continue in state service."

TEXT GIVEN

The text of McKeithen's statement follows:

"I have just been advised of the story in Life magazine concerning one of my former aides, Aubrey Young.

"When I gave this position of trust to Mr. Young, I had observed him for almost a year in his daily conduct and had a chance to appraise his degree of honor and integrity.

"He was one of the few men I had ever known who read his Bible every night and prayed unashamedly to his Lord for strength to fight that weakness with which thousands of well intentioned Americans are afflicted. I am speaking, of course, of alcoholism, which Mr. Young's previous record indicated he had overcome. When he accepted his position with me, I admonished him that his actions and companions must be circumspect and for almost three years all information indicated this was true. Many compliments came to me of his conduct from some of the most respected leaders in the state.

"I gather from reading Life there is no suggestion that he has violated any laws, and it was only after he had disassociated himself from the AA program and from personal prayer that his actions became such that upon learning of same, I felt he could not continue in state service."

According to the Life article, Partin confirmed that initially he was offered $25,000 a year for 10 years to change his testimony, and the ante was hiked until it reached an overall total of $1 million.

Partin is said eventually to have reported the alleged bribe attempt to the Justice Department.